



## CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR® guidelines for superior energy management were established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help organizations reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

### The ENERGY STAR Challenge

#### Build a Better World 10% at a Time

The buildings in which we work, shop, and educate our children use about \$80 billion worth of electricity and natural gas\* each year. These buildings use much of their energy at peak times, helping drive the need for new power generation and more natural gas. They also contribute about 20% of our national emissions of greenhouse gases.

It is time to make these buildings part of the energy efficiency solution – and help build a better world. EPA, in partnership with business and community leaders, is challenging building owners across the country to improve the efficiency of their buildings by 10% or more. EPA estimates that if each building owner took on this challenge, **by 2015 Americans would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 20 MMTCE, equivalent to the emissions from 15 million vehicles, while saving about \$10 billion.** Leaders across the country already are showing that energy use in buildings can be reduced by 10%, 20%, 30% and even more with proven practices and technologies that pay off financially and for our environment.

**The ENERGY STAR Challenge** calls on businesses and institutions across the country to take the right steps to identify the many buildings where financially attractive improvements can reduce energy use by 10% or more, and to make the improvements now through proven methods such as low-cost building tune-ups, lighting upgrades, and replacement of old equipment.

The ENERGY STAR Challenge is promoting three important actions:

- 1) **Determine how much energy buildings are using.** Systematically tracking building energy use highlights buildings that may be using unnecessary amounts of energy. For many buildings, EPA offers a national energy performance rating system that scores a building's energy efficiency, on a scale of 1 to 100, relative to similar buildings across the country. Buildings with lower ratings are typically good candidates for improvement, as the low rating reflects an important operational issue or out-dated technology. The rating system is available for office buildings, schools, hotels, hospitals, and grocery stores among others. Please visit [www.energystar.gov/benchmark](http://www.energystar.gov/benchmark) to learn more.
- 2) **Establish efficiency improvement goals.** An efficiency improvement goal of 10% or greater should be established for a portfolio of buildings as a whole or for as many buildings as possible.
- 3) **Make improvements.** EPA will recognize businesses and organizations that make improvements to their buildings and share their results. By meeting or beating their goals, these organizations are protecting our environment and improving their bottom line.

Many organizations are participating in EPA's ENERGY STAR Challenge and helping to build a better world, 10% at a time. States are encouraging improvements across government buildings and facilities, including school districts and county and city governments, and reaching out to businesses in their communities. Leading associations are participating by developing industry-specific campaigns to help their members benefit from improved energy efficiency. Many businesses and organizations already have demonstrated a 10% improvement across their buildings and have earned the special designation of ENERGY STAR Leader as a result of their efforts.

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\* Based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration. Energy use data is from 2003. Cost data is from 1999.